

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 OES-06 DLOS-06 SAL-01 IO-13 EB-07
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /072 W
-----131354Z 029711 /53

R 131205Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9231

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0094

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS PBOR PFOR ICJ CA DM
SUBJ: POSSIBLE CANADA-US ICJ SUBMISSION: LOUIS IGNACIO-PINTO,
BENIN

REF: STATE 5301

1. LOUIS IGNACIO PINTO, 73, IS BENIN'S MOST EMINENT
JURIST AND ELDER STATESMAN OF PREREVOLUTIONARY DAHOMEY.
MOST CURRENT BIO INFORMATION IN POSTS' POSSESSION DATES
FROM MARCH 29, 1975 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY
LAST OCCASION PINTO WAS IN HIS HOME COUNTRY. AT THAT TIME
PINTO EXPRESSED COMPLETE ALIENATION FROM MILITARY REVOLUTIONARY
REGIME OF PRESIDENT KEREKOU. PINTO IS ASSOCIATE OF FORMER
PRESIDENT EMILE ZINSOU, AVOWED ENEMY OF KEREKOU REGIME. POST
THEREFORE CONSIDERS THAT PINTO WILL NOT RPT NOT BE GUIDED BY
POSITION OF GPRB (GOVERNMENT OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BENIN)
ON LOS MATTERS.

2. PROFILE FOLLOWS:
BORN 1903, PORTO NOVO, EDUCATED IN PORTO NOVO, LAGOS, BORDEAUX.
LAW LICENSE AND DIPLOMA IN COLONIAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY
OF BORDEAUX. DIPLOAMS IN ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW,
UNIVERSITY OF PARIS. RETURNED TO DAHOMEY 1932, BEGAN
POLITICAL CAREER IN 1936. RETURNED TO FRANCE SAME YEAR,
PRACTICED LAW. LIEUTENANT IN FRENCH ARMY, WOULDDED AT SEDAN
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1940. ACTIVE IN RESISTANCE IN CONAKRY. RETURNED TO
DAHOMY 1946, ELECTED SENATOR, POSITION HE HELD FOR TEN
YEARS. MINISTER OF ECONOMY IN FIRST DAHOMEAN GOVERNMENT
1956. MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CIVIL SERVICE 1958. FIRST
AMBASSADOR TO US AND UN, 1961. PRESIDENT OF SUPREME COURT
1967-1974.

3. PINTO HAS HELD NUMEROUS POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: PRESIDENT OF COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, 1957; MEMBER OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL OF UN, 1962; MEMBER OF UN MISSION TO SOUTH VIETNAM SEPTEMBER 1963; RAPPORTEUR, COMMISSION OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN 1964.

4. GIVEN PINTO'S INCLINATIONS WITH REGARD TO BENIN INTERNAL SITUATION, AND HIGH LEVEL OF CANADIAN AID TO BENIN (ROUGHLY \$30 MILLION IN CURRENT CIDA CYCLE), POST CONSIDERS CONTACT WITH GPRB ON US-CANADA DISPUTE TO BE UNPROFITABLE. POST CURRENTLY HAS NO INFORMATION ON PINTO'S VIEWS REGARDING LOSMATTES AND DOUBTS WHETHER SUCH INFORMATION WILL BE READILY AVAILABLE IN BENIN SINCE MOST OF PINTO'S FORMER ASSOCIATES HAVE LEFT, DIED, OR RETIRED. PINTO CAN BE CONSIDERED PRO-WESTERN IN GENERAL (US AND CANADA) AND IS LIKELY TO JUDGE CASE ON ITS MERITS. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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